

TOP SECRET

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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

[REDACTED] 0492-64  
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10 DEC 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director  
National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT: Soviet Anti-Satellite Capability:  
Part III

1. I have your response of 20 November to my inquiry of 10 November regarding your concern as to CIA estimates of Soviet satellite tracking accuracies. The correspondence seems to have shifted the subject somewhat away from the proposition that originally caused Mr. McCone's concern. It is my understanding that you have challenged the correctness of the CIA/CSI estimates [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The validity of this estimate is easily discussed and settled in a technical forum. The purpose of my first note was to establish such a discussion with your technical people at an early date. It may be that you do not disagree with the CIA estimates "by an order of magnitude or more," in which case we can promptly close the matter. However, if you have such a concern, we are most anxious to resolve the problem, since a good deal turns on the answer.

2. Your recent note does raise the broader and more fundamental question of probable Soviet capabilities and intent, which is certainly the first concern of NRO. This judgment properly belongs to the Board of National Estimates. Earlier this year I sent you copies of two

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25X1 basic OSI technical reports [redacted]

[redacted] which served as in-puts to the national estimates program. Dr. Chamberlain later briefed you on the same matter and up-dated those studies. Your request of 22 September for a more detailed briefing by Dr. Chamberlain was deferred pending publication of the annual National Estimate of Soviet Air Defense Capabilities [redacted] This has just been completed and treats the estimative problem which you raise. An advanced draft is forwarded herewith for your use.

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[redacted]

ALBERT D. WHEELON  
Deputy Director  
for  
Science and Technology

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